The Daily Telegraph



# Royal Hospital for Women medical researchers flag womb transplants for biological men

**It may sound like science fiction but top doctors at one of Sydney's biggest hospitals have raised the possibility of womb being transplanted into biological men.**

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An article bringing awareness to endometriosis has described those who suffer from the disease as "Australians with uteruses", according to Sky News host Caleb Bond. "They're called women for goodness' sake," he said. "Am I going to have to start calling myself an Australian with testicles or something – seriously, it is so dehumanising."

**EXCLUSIVE:** One of Sydney's top hospitals for women is pioneering radical new medical research in transplanting uteruses – and doctors say they are even considering transplanting wombs into biological men.

The Royal Hospital for Women in Randwick achieved Australia's first uterus transplant in January — and now some gynaecologists from the hospital say they are looking at transplants as an "option" for the transgender population who are "assigned male at birth".

The nation's first uterus transplant operation involved a mother donating her uterus to her daughter, who had suffered an emergency hysterectomy after a major haemorrhage during childbirth.

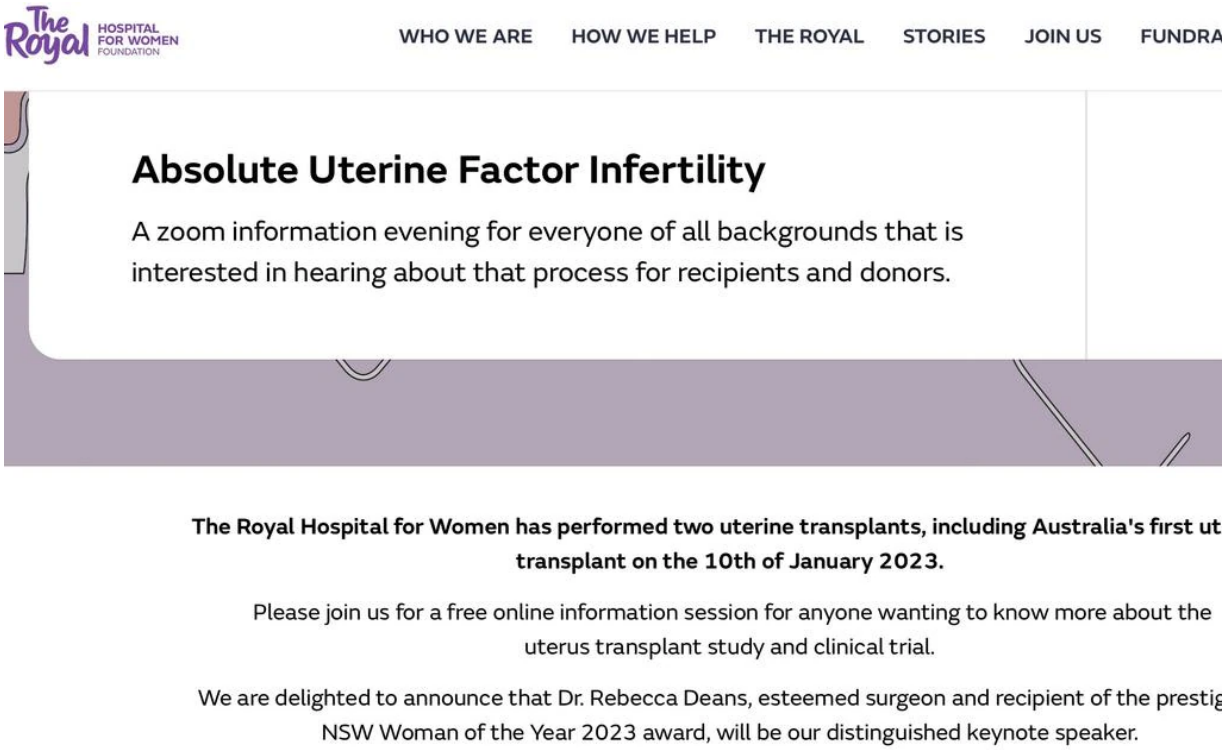
At a charity event hosted by hospital's fundraising organisation, the Royal Hospital For Women Foundation, one of the hospital's gynaecologists Professor Jason Abbott said the hospital had received interest in transplantation from women who had suffered medical issues such as cancer as well as "other groups".

In the video recording of the event, Professor Abbott stated: "We want to consider where we could go with all this. We've also got interest from other groups.

The Royal Hospital for Women video features gynaecologist Professor Jason Abbott speaking on a panel about the possibility of transplanting the uteruses into biological males.

"We've got women 'assigned male at birth' as a transgender population — we have an option for these people in the future."

The hospital is fundraising to continue the medical trial, with the research money paying for the operations, which cost $100,000 each.



Dr. Deans holds the distinction of being the first surgeon in Australia to successfully conduct a uteri transplant. The event will be moderated by Dr Neil Kiely and assisted by Dr Brigitte Gerstl.

**The Distinguished Panel**

**Dr Rebecca Deans** Gynaecologist and Lead Trial Doctor

The Royal Hospital for Women at Randwick is pioneering uterine transplants in Australia and held an information session on the procedures.

Earlier this week on a Reddit social media posting, a blogger said they were from the Australian Professional Association for Trans Health (AusPath) and posted that the Royal Hospital for Women was currently "accepting trans masc uterine donations and within the next one to two years will start facilitating trans femme uterine transplants".

At an information video session held on May 30, the hospital's lead research doctor and gynaecologist Dr Rebecca Deans was asked if the hospital planned to transplant a uterus into a transwoman (a biological male).

**r/transgenderau** · 4 days ago
by FlandersNed

Join

**Royal Womens Hospital in Sydney taking trans masc uterine donations for future trans fem uterine transplants**

This was posted in a trans facebook group a few days ago:

> Hey all, I'm a member of the Australian Professional Association for Trans Health and a member shared this yesterday. Royal Womens Hospital in Sydney is hosting an information session next week about uterine transplants - I wanted to pass it on for everyone here. The study is currently accepting trans masc uterine donations, and within the next 1-2 years will start facilitating trans feme uterine transplants. There's an information session next week on 30 May, open to community and clinicians, here's the blurb from the email with the link: I am delighted to extend an invitation to an upcoming online information session that will centre around absolute uterine factor infertility and showcase the ground-breaking uterine transplant research study program. It would be an honour to have you join us for this session, where you will have the invaluable opportunity to engage with our esteemed panel members, as indicated on the attached flyer, and inquire about various aspects of the uterine transplant program. We have assembled a distinguished group of speakers, and we would be grateful if you could share this email widely within your networks. To secure your spot for the event, kindly register your interest on the Royal Hospital for Women Foundation webpage dedicated to the information session. You can access the registration page directly through the following link:
> :

The event is gone, but the link is here: https://www.royalwomen.org.au/event/absolute-uterine-factor-infertility?fbclid=IwAR3-Sxo5KGBfdUsIJTU1FtFC7R5VNvwVpsSH6e52fjLnVNYEWhM_gg8JZ8c

May be worth contacting the hospital to see if there's some kind of program that lets people sign ups, or somethin

The posting on Reddit thread about the possibility of transplanting uterus donations and transplants.

"We have no plans at this stage but we're obviously not excluding that as a possibility in the future," she said.

Gender critical advocates are concerned young women, who are questioning their identity, may feel to pressured to donate their organs.

“What consideration has been given to gender questioning young females who donate, who are plunged into menopause with the removal of uteruses?” said Sydney lawyer Katherine Deves.

“If consideration is given to a man having a uterus, has any consideration been given to the impact on the foetus?”

University of Notre Dame Professor of Bioethics Margaret Somerville said in any reproductive technology decision making, the child and their rights and their “best interests” must take priority.

She said a distinction must be made in using technology to repair nature when it fails, as in cases of women medically unable to bear children, and doing what is “impossible in Nature — a biological man being pregnant”.

“The former is much more likely to be ethical than the latter,” she said.

“This allows us to ethically justify helping biological women with a uterine transplant but not biological men.

“There are also many more ethical issues raised if the uterine recipient is a transwoman. Would ‘her’ sperm be used to fertilise a donor ova? If so she would be both the mother and the father of the child.”

A registered nurse who attended the session said she was concerned that gender dysphoric women were being encouraged to donate their uteruses for transwomen to have babies.

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“There was one young trans man who attended the panel and spoke. They were very keen to donate to the program because they would be able to have their uterus removed for free due to it coming from research grant money. The mere urgency in their desire to donate should ring alarm bells.”

Australian doctors have now carried out two operations, supervised by Swedish surgeon Mats Brännström who performed the world’s first successful uterus transplantation in 2012.

About 100 womb transplants have been conducted around the world since then — but none yet on biological males.

But Dr Brannstrom told European media outlets earlier this year he thought it would be possible to transplant to males if there's no risk and "I don't think there are any ethical boundaries".

Royal Hospital for Women and AusPath have been approached for comment.

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